

DID YOU KNOW?

USMC SAFETY & FORCE PRESERVATION



OCT 2011

MARINE CORPS SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM & REQUIREMENTS

Driving is an essential element in our daily routine. We utilize motor vehicles to commute to and from work, visit family and friends, and at times reach our vacation destinations. However, for business or pleasure, driving is a task that should not be taken lightly.

The early edition of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2009 Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report states that of the 5,505,000 police reported motor vehicle traffic accidents across America: 30,797 were fatalities, 1,517,000 involved injuries, and 3,957,000 involved property damage. The causal factors associated with these crashes are vast.



Whether caused by speeding, distracted driving, driving under the influence, or driving while fatigued, most accidents can be avoided by utilizing the skills learned in a comprehensive driver education program. Though vehicle accidents continue to claim the lives of tens of thousands of Americans and injure millions more every year, most accidents are avoidable. By arming our Marines with the correct information and driver education, they have a greater opportunity of being safe on the road and staying alive. The Marine Corps driver education courses were developed to improve operator skills and habits by fostering positive driving behavior and attitudes in order to reduce injuries and deaths of Marines due to vehicle mishaps.

Recent Lessons Learned:

- Distracted driving is any non-driving activity that has the potential to distract a person from the primary task of operating a motor vehicle and increases the risk of crashing. Examples are using a wireless/handheld device, eating or drinking, grooming, reading, viewing maps, using a navigation system, changing the radio station, CD, Mp3, etc.
- Younger, inexperienced drivers (18-25 years old) have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.
- Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.
- Aggressive driving and reckless behavior (speeding, running red lights, frequent lane changes) significantly increases the chances of a crash.
- Proper vehicle care and maintenance is critical to a safe journey.

Did you know?

The Marine Corps experienced 20 Class-A personal motor vehicle mishaps (4-wheel) resulting in 23 fatalities in 2011.

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Driver Improvement Course (DIC)

- Required training for military personnel designed for initial driver training that covers proactive driving, reactive driving, and imminent collisions.
- All Marine Corps personnel under the age of 26 will complete a CMC Safety Division approved traffic safety course.
- The Marine's first gaining unit will ensure they receive at least six (6) hours of driver awareness training within 60 days of check-in.
- Reservists under the age of 26 on active duty for 90 days or more will receive at least six (6) hours of driver awareness training within 60 days of check-in.
- All Recruiters, regardless of age, are required to attend a defensive driving class while at Recruiter School.
- Approved CMC Safety Division courses are:
 - National Safety Council (NSC) Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course
 - American Automobile Association (AAA) Driver's Improvement
 - Smith System

Remedial Driver Training Course

- Designed to reinforce positive driving behaviors, and highlight irresponsible driving habits such as driving while fatigued, using excessive speed, etc.
- Shall be attended by persons who have been convicted of moving traffic violations, have been determined to be at fault in a traffic mishap while operating any POV or GOV, or have been assigned to attend by the CO.
- Attendees will lose installation driving privileges until completion of the course.
- Installations may use court-approved local community driver improvement programs to fulfill this requirement.

Drivers Awareness Training (DAT)

- Designed for Marines who have been identified as high risk drivers based on past driving history or behavioral indicators.
- The intent is to enable the Marine to understand the consequences of their choices, to recognize when they have made a choice that is detrimental to themselves or others, and to take the correct steps in making better choices when behind the wheel of any motor vehicle.
- Approved training courses for DAT are:
 - NSC's Attitudinal Dynamics
 - AAA's Remedial Drivers Course
 - Other courses pre-approved by Safety Division

Did you know?

Alive at 25 is no longer taught in entry-level training (i.e. basic training, MCT, etc.) Contact your local Installation Safety Office for course information.

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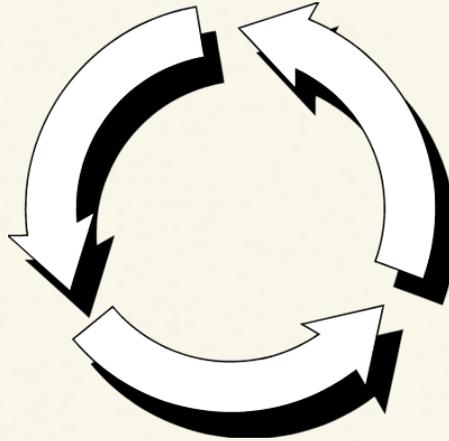


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TAKE RESPONSIBILITY & TAKE ACTION

LEADERSHIP

- Conduct a formal records check to identify Marines under 26 who have not completed training prior to joining the unit.
- Ensure required training is completed.
- Make inquiries about past driving history (i.e. traffic violations).
- Mentor and educate Marines on local area driving laws and recognized traffic hazards upon joining the unit.
- Reinforce the importance of traffic safety and personal responsibility when operating a motor vehicle.



INDIVIDUAL MARINE

- Ask about required training.
- Register and complete required training.
- Ensure your training is updated and documented accurately on your Basic Training Record (BTR).
- Seek out new ways to educate yourself and improve your driver's education.
- Take personal responsibility for operating and maintaining your personal motor vehicle.



END RESULT

A Marine who is thoroughly educated in the awareness and understanding of the many risks involved in operating a motor vehicle, and armed with the right tools to combat and mitigate those risks.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit your Command Ground Safety Office or Installation Safety Office for more information on driver improvement training programs or follow the links below:

- [CMC Safety Division's Webpage](#)
- [Naval Safety Center Webpage](#)
- [National Safety Council Training](#)
- [AAA Driver Improvement Program](#)
- [SemperFiSurveys](#)

Stay engaged - encourage all Marines to use the [Travel Risk Planning System \(TRiPS\)](#) if they'll be driving long distances over the holidays or while on leave. Follow the link above for more information.

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MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Why would a Marine or Sailor speed or drive aggressively in certain situations?

- Are they running late or encountered unexpected traffic delays?
- Do they have poor trip planning skills (e.g. they did not allow enough time to make the trip driving the posted speed limit)?
- Do they have limited time off and are trying to pack a lot of activity into a short period of time?
- Do they enjoy the thrill of driving fast?

Why would a Marine or Sailor fail to wear a seatbelt in a motor vehicle?

- Are they in a hurry?
- Did they “forget” to put on their seatbelt?
- Is it ‘not cool’ to wear a seatbelt?
- Do they feel their seatbelts are uncomfortable?
- Do they think their seatbelts will wrinkle their clothes or mess up their uniforms (e.g. seatbelts damage ribbons)?



Why would a Marine or Sailor drink and drive?

- Are they overconfident about their driving abilities after drinking?
- Do they have poor planning skills (e.g. they did not make alternate arrangements to get home)?
- Are they unaware of their level of intoxication?
- Driving home seems easier than waiting for or paying for a cab.

What could cause a Marine or Sailor fall asleep at the wheel?

- Do they suffer from sleep deprivation?
- Are they driving when they should be sleeping?
- Do they have a negative influence of certain chemical substances?

The GCASS Issue Papers below are available upon request by visiting www.semperisurveys.org

These Issue Papers are based on data from anonymous GCASS surveys taken throughout the Marine Corps, and the topics below relate specifically to PMV issues in the Marine Corps. Click the link above for access to these Issue Papers and more.

- Issue Paper #40: Quick Look At Seatbelt Use by Marines
- Issue Paper #37: Would You Buy Your Car?
- Issue Paper #34: Cell Phone Use While Driving (Revisited)
- Issue Paper #30: Comparison of Two Age Groups' D&D Survey Favorable Responses II
- Issue Paper #29: Comparison of Two Age Groups' D&D Survey Favorable Responses
- Issue Paper #28: Drinking & Driving (D&D) Survey Favorable Responses (Revisited)



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www.marines.mil/unit/safety/Pages/welcome